(c) whether any funds were earmarked for this project during the current year; and

(d) the time-frame set for execution of this project indicating the progress made in this regard, till-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of railway stations before Commonwealth Games-2010

267. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to modernize/upgrade Amritsar and Chandigarh stations before the Commonwealth Games in October, 2010;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government is also planning to introduce heritage trains for tourists to Amritsar during the Games;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plans of Government to provide good connectivity to the nearest tourist/pilgrimage centres from Delhi during the Commonwealth Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Amritsar Railway station is an "A-I" category station and Chandigarh is an "A" category station and minimum essential passenger amenities have already been provided at both the stations as per norms.

Further, Amritsar station has been modernized/upgraded under Model station scheme as well as Modern station scheme, Chandigarh station has been modernized/upgraded under Modern station scheme and planned for completion by March 2010 under Model station scheme. Following modernization/upgradation works have been completed at these stations:

Chandigarh -

(i) Improvement to entry and exist to ensure smooth flow of traffic;

(ii) Development of green patch circulating area;

(iii) Improvement to facade of station building;

(iv) Modernization of concourse;

(v) Modernization of Booking & Enquiry Office;

(vi) Improvement to waiting room and waiting hall;

(vii) Improvement to Platform surface;

(viii) Improvement to water booths; and

(ix) Improvement to retiring room.

Amritsar -

i. Face work of station building;

ii. Improvement to circulating area;

iii. Improvement to platform surface; and

iv. Landing of foot over bridges with granite stone flanged cut.

Moreover, both these stations have been identified for development as World Class station.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal at present to introduce heritage trains for tourists to Amritsar during the Commonwealth Games. However, Railways will make all efforts to clear extra rush of passenger traffic during the Commonwealth Games.

More railway stations on Qazigund-Baramulla rail line

268. SHRI G. N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplates to establish more Railway stations on Qazigund - Baramulla Railway Sector on Public demand; and

(b) whether one such stations can be established at Naina - Batapora and another at Ratinpora - Hanjipura in Pulwama district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. At present fifteen Railway Stations are operational between Qazigund - Baramullah railway sector over a distance of about 118 kms. There is no plan to establish more railway stations in this sector.

(b) Setting up of station depends on a number of factors such as viability, demand, feasibility and operational requirement. Naina-Batapora is less than 4 kms from Bijbahara and Punjgam. Similarly, Ratinpora-Hanjipura is less than 6 kms from Awantipore and 4 kms from Kakapore. Therefore, setting up of stations at Naina-Batapora and at Ratinpora-Hanjipora is operationally not justified.

Udhampur-Qazigund rail line

269. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplates re-alignment of Udhampur-Qazigund railway line;

(b) if so, the steps which have taken to expedite fresh survey;

(c) whether adequate allocation has been made in Railway and/or Genera! Budget to complete the construction of this railway line on schedule; and